

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 NIC-01 AID-05 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

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R 021210Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5149

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LI, CB

SUBJECT: GOL MAY RECOGNIZE GRUNK

1. FONMIN DENNIS CALLED ME TO THE MINISTRY LATE AFTERNOON APRIL 1 TO DISCUSS CAMBODIAN SITUATION. DENNIS SAID GOL CONCERNED OVER RECENT DETERIORATION OF SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. HE RECALLED NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT 1973 ALGIERS SESSION WHICH CALLED FOR RECOGNITION OF GRUNK AS SOLE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIAN PEOPLE. IN DEFERENCE TO US POSITION, HOWEVER, GOL HAD CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED US POSITION ON GRUNK IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA SINCE THAT TIME. IN SO DOING, GOL HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY ISOLATED FROM ITS AFRICAN AND NON-ALIGNED COLLEAGUES. IN VIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION GOL BELIEVES IT TO BE IN ITS NATIONAL INTERESTE IDENTIFY ITSELF MORE CLOSELY WITH ITS AFRICAN BROTHERS AND RECOGNIZE GRUNK. THE RECENT EXIT OF LON NOL UNDERSCORES URGENCY FOR GOL TO MOVE WITH AFRICAN AND NON-ALIGNED CONSENSUL. DENNIS SAID PRESIDENT TOLBERT WAS WELL AWARE OF TREND AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE SIHANOUK FACTION AND WISHED TO MOVE WITH THE TREND. I RESPONDED THAT US POSITION HAS NOT BEEN RECOGNITION OF LON NOL PER SE, BUT RATHER RECOGNITION OF THE LEGALLY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA. WE WOULD HOPE THAT GOL COULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US IN THIS POSITION AND THE GENERAL PREPOSITION OF ALLOWING

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THE CONTESTING PARTIES TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION AMONG THEM-

SELVES. DENNIS SAID HE APPRECIATED US POSITION BUT GOL NOW
WISHED TO IDENTIFY MORE CLOSELY WITH THE AFRICAN CLUB.

2. COMMENT: DENNIS DID NOT INDICATE ANY TIMETABLE FOR GOL
RECOGNITION OF GRUNK AND GOL MAY IN FACT AWAIT FUTURE
DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT WE CAN EXPECT
LITTLE OR NO SUPPORT FROM GOL, AS IN PAST, ON THE GRUNK IN
UN OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA. DENNIS' USE OF PRESIDENT
TOLBERT'S NAME THROUGHOUT UNDERLINES THAT THIS GOL POSITION
TAKEN AT HIGHEST LEVEL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MONROV01747
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750114-0122
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750489/aaaaddpv.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOL MAY RECOGNIZE GRUNK
TAGS: PFOR, LI, CB, GRUNK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006